

STATINTL

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24 FEB 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Notes on Conversation with [] Regarding the Youth Forum

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1. At luncheon today I had a chance to chat a bit with Bob on the Youth Forum and related matters. First, as for the Support Panel, regardless of how [] saw themselves, [] confirmed the sense we have had from others that the Panel was defensive, not at ease, and gave the impression of not having full faith in the points they were making. [] confirmed my understanding that the focus of dissent or unease in the Clandestine Service is quite different from that in the Intelligence Directorate. He says the primary concern of the young Clandestine Service officer is essentially a wages and hours matter; e.g., when are the old ones now at pasture going to be moved out so that we — the young people — can get on with the job? On the other hand, largely confined in OCI, the DD/I young professionals are concerned with philosophical problems — essentially, that the Agency is kidding itself about the role it plays in policy making and policy execution. Agency management continues to deny that we participate in policy formation when, as a matter of fact and inescapably, we do. Likewise the charge is made that we color our reporting to fit administrative policy. Example: If we are reporting on the politics of Bolivia, we may report that the President is in fact a dictator and that his government is corrupt. Question: How long has it been since we said that President Thieu of South Vietnam is a dictator? This DD/I group is not limited to young people but does reach into some of the older groups. The concern also goes to the possibility that we in fact believe that we do not participate in policy and, if we really believe this, we're in trouble.

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2. [] agrees and is personally firmly of the opinion that the Director must be prepared in his State of the Agency address to speak to the matter of Agency image, the unease of young people, and the Agency's role in today's Government. If he does not address himself to the issue in his prepared remarks, he must expect questions, and it would be most unfortunate if he did not provide for a question period.

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5X1 I think that [] intends to find an opportunity to talk with the Director in this sense before the State of the Agency message. Incidentally, he agreed that it would be preferable that the Director have his spring conference with the Deputies before the State of the Agency message and that, in all likelihood, the conference would generate material the Director would want to talk about.



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for Support

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ADD/S:RSW/ms (24 Feb 71)

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